

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
Washington 25, D. C.

1.96  
Ad. b. Fm  
Cap 3

FIELD MEMORANDUM #1101

Re: The National Farm Safety  
Policy of the Soil  
Conservation Service

June 16, 1944

TO ALL RANKING FIELD OFFICERS:

The conservation of soil and water depends fundamentally on the efforts and labors of our agricultural workers. Any hindrance which impedes the full performance of our farm workers tends to limit our conservation activities and the production of vital food material.

Preventable farm accidents and farm fires each year take a huge toll of usable time and materials and seriously threaten the general welfare of our farm people. Fatal accidents to people living on farms total about 20,000 each year. The fatality total to farmers at work is highest of the six major industries, and accounts for a fourth of all occupational deaths. The total monetary costs of farm accidents and fires amounted to \$1,000,000,000 in 1943.

The Soil Conservation Service has a unique opportunity to assist in the forwarding of the National Farm Safety movement through its many trained workers who have direct contact with farmers. Soil Conservation District Supervisors also are in a splendid position to raise the general safety and economic level of their local communities by taking an active interest in the prevention of farm accidents and farm fires.

While our front-line activities in conserving soil and water must remain our first objective, I do believe that the full realization of this objective is, to a great extent, dependent on the health and welfare of our farm people. For this reason I am anxious that every employee of the Soil Conservation Service take an active part in the National Farm Safety Program.

The following recommendations should be used as a guide in carrying on the Service's Farm Safety Program:

1. The Regional Office Safety Committee will coordinate farm safety activities of the Service throughout the region.
2. Farm planning technicians may well point out to the farmer the many increased safety features which accompany conservation farming.
3. State Conservationists should cooperate fully with State Safety Councils and other state and federal organizations interested in farm safety and health.
4. The Soil Conservation Service will cooperate fully with the National Farm Safety Program sponsored by the National Safety Council.

5. Farm safety newspaper information and radio material will be handled through the Information Division as is Soil Conservation Service material. Any farm safety press and radio material emanating from the Soil Conservation Service should be tied in with soil conservation activities. Press and radio material on farm safety alone, except in response to specific requests, should not be released to the public by the Soil Conservation Service.
6. Farm safety posters, distributed by regional offices, may be displayed in Soil Conservation Service offices, or placed in other offices, or in stores where cooperative arrangements have been made for the display of Soil Conservation Service or U.S.D.A. posters.
7. Safety education is important in all safety programs. Farm safety slogans and information may well be included in Soil Conservation Service circular letters, exhibits, groups meetings, district news columns, etc.
8. All employees directly contacting farmers should point out accident and health hazards which are seen on the individual farms, and discuss the methods of correcting such hazards. Employees will make arrangements, through Service channels, to obtain special technical information and aid when the condition requires such treatment.
9. District Conservationists should encourage District Supervisors to include farm safety and health in their annual work plan. District Supervisors also should be encouraged to sponsor or support special local farm safety and health activities.

  
Chief

